

The Tabernacle

Introduction

The Tabernacle

- Built in 1490 B.C. and would be used until the Temple was built in 1004 B.C.
- Built according to God's precise pattern given to Moses on Sinai – Exodus 25:40, Numbers 8:4, Hebrews 8:5
 - “This word *pattern* means type or model, and conveys the thought that Moses looked upon a model of the Tabernacle as God was instructing him. Certain it is that in no particular of its construction was he left to his own ideas; the whole was a direct and complete revelation, as was the giving of the Law at the same time, and in the same place.” – W. Graham Scroggie
- W. Graham Scroggie gives this outline overview of the parts of the Tabernacle:
 - THE STRUCTURE
 - The Court – 100 cubits by 50 (150'x75')
 - The Tabernacle – 30 cubits by 10 (45'x15')
 - The Holy Place – 20 cubits by 10 (30'x15')
 - The Holiest of All – 10 cubits by 10 (15'x15')
 - The Tent over the Tabernacle
 - The Covering over the Tent
 - THE FURNITURE
 - In the Court
 - The Brazen Altar
 - The Laver
 - In the Holy Place
 - The Golden Lampstand
 - The Table of Shewbread
 - The Altar of Incense
 - In the Holiest of All
 - The Ark
 - The Mercy-Seat and Cherubim

Why Study the Tabernacle?

- Because all Scripture is profitable to us – II Timothy 3:16-17
- Because all Scripture points to Christ - John 5:39, Acts 26:22-23
- Because of the doctrine that it represents through symbolism and typology.
 - “...God wrote systematic theology in the very warp and woof of the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was theology prewritten; the whole gamut of theology was run from Dan to Beersheba. The Tabernacle is the ABC's of salvation for babes in

Christ. All the great doctrines of the Christian faith are contained therein.” – J. Vernon McGee

- Because of the meticulous details given.
 - “It is interesting to note that only one verse of Scripture records the creation of the heavens and earth (Genesis 1:1), while fifteen chapters are devoted to the Tabernacle (Exodus 25-40) and a whole book (Leviticus) to the service of it. Evidently God meant to convey to our hearts more than arithmetical measurements of a lifeless structure that’s sole interest, at best, lies in the realm of architecture.” – J. Vernon McGee
- Because of how it illuminates New Testament passages – ex. Hebrew 9:11-12
- Because it highlights God’s holiness, man’s sin, and the method of our redemption – Hebrews 9:19-28
- Because it represents something heavenly – Hebrews 8:4-5
- Because God Himself dwelt there – Exodus 40:34-38

Names for the Tabernacle

- Etymology of *Tabernacle*
 - Our English word is from the Latin *tabernaculum*, meaning a hut or tent.
 - The Old Testament uses the Hebrew words *mishkan* (Strong’s H4908, “dwelling place”) or *ohel* (Strong’s H168, “tent”)
 - The New Testament uses the Greek word *skene* (Strong’s G4633, “habitation, tabernacle”)
 - The general idea is that of a temporary or portable dwelling place.
- Tabernacle of Testimony/Witness – Exodus 38:21, Numbers 17:7,8
 - Refers to the Stone Tablets and copy of the Law kept there.
- Temple of the Lord – I Samuel 1:9, 3:3
 - Uses a different word - *hekal* (Strong’s H1964)
 - It was a place of worship dedicated to God.
- House of the Lord – Exodus 23:19, I Samuel 3:15
 - It was the place where God dwelt, “between the cherubim” – I Samuel 4:4
- Sanctuary – Exodus 16:33, 19:30, 20:3
 - Refers to its holiness, that is set apart for sacred use.
- Tabernacle of the Congregation/Meeting – Exodus 27:21, 39:22
 - It is a place where God meets His people – Exodus 25:8,22; 29:42-45; 30:6,36